

DATE:
SUBJECT:

LOCATION:
POLLUTANTS:
OCCURRENCE DATE:
MEDIA AFFECTED:

QUANTITY DISCHARGED:
QUANTITY ENTERING WATER:
CATEGORY:
SOURCE:

REGION:
OSC:

OFFICE NUMBER:
SITE NUMBER:
LATEST POLREP:

file copy
2.04
February 14, 1994
POLREP 1 and Final
HARCO PROPERTY SITE
WILTON, CONNECTICUT
LEAD and ZINC
EARLY 1970-1985
WATER, SOIL, GROUNDWATER and
SURFACE WATER
UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN
INLAND
SLUDGE FROM G & B
MANUFACTURING COMPANY
I
PAUL GROULX
US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY
EMERGENCY PLANNING and
RESPONSE BRANCH
LEXINGTON, MA 02173
(617) 860-4308
L4
INITIAL and FINAL POLREP



SEMS DocID 633369

I. Background:

The Harco Property Site, located at 44 Old Mill Road, Wilton, Fairfield County, Connecticut, is 41.1 acres, mostly woods, with a clearing of approximately 2.0 acres. The north and east sections of this clearing are covered by shrubs and bushes and include several small wetland areas. A stream flows along the northeast corner of the property and flows into the Saugatuck River. The property is abutted by residential homes, private wells. The Norwalk River is located within a quarter mile west of the Site.

The Site was owned by Peter P. Harco from 1966 to 1987. In November 1970, the State of Connecticut Water Resources Commission and the Town of Wilton Planning and Zoning Commission granted a permit to the Gilbert and Bennett Manufacturing Company of Georgetown, CT to dispose of 800 cubic yards of dried iron oxide, lime, and calcium sulfate on the ground surface, without treatment at the Harco Property. The permit period was approved for six months. The sludge was landfilled within a two-acre area to an estimated depth of approximately five feet. It was then intermixed with existing stock-piled gravel. Based on file review, the actual length of time and the amount and type of solid waste brought in are unknown. The Site has also been used as a repository for various types of solid waste. Subsequent aerial photographs taken in 1968, 1974, and in 1985 suggest incremental enlargement and expansion of dumping activities beyond those permitted by the state. On April 30, 1987, Costa Stergue purchased the 41-acre property from Florence Harco, estate beneficiary to the late Peter Harco.

II. Actions Taken:

On July 17, 1979, a site inspection by state and local health officials was conducted at Mr. Paul Lauer's request, an interested land developer. In a letter dated July 20, 1979, the state recommended that an extensive and detailed study of the site be performed for possible pollution before any site plan for development be approved.

On July 10, 1982, the Town of Wilton Zoning Office issued a "Cease and Desist Order" to Peter Harco Sr. to cease all dumping and stockpiling on the property.

On August 17, 1983, the Town of Wilton Zoning Office issued a "Cease and Desist Order" to Peter Harco Sr. to cease dumping activities.

On May 9, 1985, the Town of Wilton Zoning Office issued "Cease and Desist Order" to Peter Harco Sr. to cease all illegal landfill operations.

On June 9, 1989, the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) sent a letter to Dominick Burke, Costa Stergue's attorney stating that, if the property was to be developed for residential use, the sludge must be removed as it was a potential source of contamination and an evaluation of the extent of contamination must be conducted.

On July 13, 1990, the EPA Region 1 Regional Administrator received a letter of inquiry concerning the Harco site from Senator Joseph Lieberman.

On September 25, 1990, the EPA's Emergency Planning and Response Branch (EPRB) initiated a Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation (PA/SI) based on Senator Lieberman's request. The PA/SI sampling identified lead as the soil contaminant of concern. A water sample from a nearby unnamed stream also contained lead and zinc contamination.

In November 1990, the PA/SI report was completed by the EPA.

On June 12, 1991, the EPA site investigator and sampling team were denied access by the owner to the Site for additional confirmatory sampling.

On July 9, 1991, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) issued a health consultation on the Harco property to the ATSDR Regional Representative. Because the sample of lead concentration had over 1,000 parts per million (ppm), the consultation concluded that the levels warranted a threat to public health. The report recommended the following: a) further characterization of the site; b) consider administrative controls on the land use until contamination could be characterized and abated; c) restrict access to the site; d) minimize the possibility of lead migration off site; and e) ensure that the stream water not used for potable purpose.

On July 17, 1991, the EPA SI issued the final "Removal Site Investigation Closure Memorandum" in accordance with section 300.400 of the NCP. The findings of the evaluation contained in the PA/SI report led to the determination that a removal action is appropriate at this time due to, but not limited to, the high concentrations of lead in the soil at the site. Based on initial sampling, the highest lead concentration; 84,500 ppm and 8,520 ppm. Soil concentrations of zinc, another contaminant of concern, were found at levels of 47,600 ppm, 46,200 ppm and 9,870 ppm. One surface water sample was collected in a nearby unnamed stream. Analysis indicated lead at 0.981 ppm and zinc at 9 ppm.

On October 23, 1991, the EPA sent a "Notice of Potential Liability and Invitation to Perform or Finance Proposed Cleanup Activities" to the landowner of record by certified mail giving notice of liability and invitation to perform or finance proposed cleanup activities at the site.

December 31, 1991, the Office of Regional Counsel contacted the property owners' by letter to inform them that the EPA was requesting owners' consent for site access and a proposal for cleanup.

On January 16, 1992, Because of the lack of response by the property owners, the EPA issued an administrative order compelling site access to become effective on January 28, 1992.

On January 27, 1992, the PRPs and the EPA met in an attempt to better inform the PRP's of the EPA notice letter sent on November 5, 1991.

On January 28, 1992, an Extent of Contamination Survey was attempted by the EPA's EPRB; however, the property owner restricted Site access to the OSC and the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) member entrance to the site.

On January 30, 1992, verbal access was granted and on February 6, 1992, a signed access was granted by the property owner. On this same date, the EPA received written confirmation from the PRPs' attorney notifying the EPA that his clients would comply with the EPA orders.

On March 30, 1992, an Extent of Contamination Survey was performed at the Harco property by the EPA EPRB and the TAT. During this Site visit, samples were collected from subsurface soil, surface water, breakout water, and nearby residents' private wells used for drinking water. The results from this survey indicated the presence of lead and zinc in the soil subsurface samples at an estimated depth of 1.5 feet. The sludge material was found to contain an average of 3,000 ppm of lead and 20,000 ppm of zinc. Based on this survey, it was estimated that the volume of soil to cleanup was 3,125 cubic yards, which is much larger than the 800 cubic yards permitted for disposal.

On March 31, 1992, at the request of the OSC, the EPA Environmental Response Branch from Edison, NJ visited the Site to evaluate the treatment/removal alternatives that were feasible for the Site, including solidification and waste minimization through separation. Cleanup goals were for the lead and zinc contaminated soil that would minimize the potential for further stream contamination resulting from surface leaching of heavy metals into the adjacent stream. Sample were collected for treatability study. The XRF analytical results showed that lead concentration ranged from 400 mg/kg to 15,000 mg/kg, while the zinc concentration ranged from 4,400 mg/kg to 150,000 mg/kg. The metal concentrations present indicate that all areas sampled were contaminated to some extent by the plating sludge. The information indicated that the zinc concentration in the soil are 10 times higher than the lead concentration, indicating that the cleanup goal for zinc will probably be the controlling factor for the removal action. The solidification studies showed that a mixture of 30% cement is adequate to achieve the regulatory requirements.

On May 12, 1992, the EPA Deputy Regional Administrator signed an Action Memorandum for the Regional Administrator authorizing \$972,000 to mitigate the threat to public health or to the environment resulting from actual or potential exposure to nearby human populations, animals, or the food chain from hazardous substances in the surface soils and waters. Of the \$972,000 authorized to cleanup the site, \$480,000 was allocated for Emergency Removal Cleanup Services (ERCS) contractor work.

On May 21, 1992, the EPA notified the Gilbert and Bennett Manufacturing Company by certified mail giving "Notice of Liability and Invitation to Perform or Finance Proposed Cleanup Activities" at the Site.

On May 28, 1992, the EPA issued a delivery order for emergency response cleanup services (ERCS) to its prime contractor Guardian Environmental Services, Inc. (GES) to begin planning a removal action at the Site.

On June 3, 1992, the EPA met with the CT DEP to discuss the Site data and existing conditions. The state was presented with a copy of the Extent of Contamination Report.

On June 3, 1992, the EPA, the Potential responsible Parties (PRP) and the ERCS contractors met on-site to discuss the delivery order. Removal activities included preparing a work proposal/schedule and cost estimate which comprised of the following: a) local and state required permits; b) survey of property; c) wetland delineation; d) cleanup options including transportation & disposal; e) cost estimates; f) water treatment; and, d) restoration.

On June 3, 1993, the EPA met with the state CT DEP and delivered the "extent of Contamination Report" and discussed action that the EPA would be considering as removal options.

On June 8, 1992, in cooperation with the CT DEP, G&B's environmental contractor sent a letter to the state, requesting an opportunity to explore the possibility of removing the by-product related materials from the Harco property to be returned to the G&B facility for incorporation into the closure plan currently undergoing review by the CT DEP.

On June 12, 1992, the OSC met at different intervals of the day with the following individuals: the CT DEP representatives, the property owners, the PRPs, the town officials, and the ERCS contractor to discuss potential options for cleanup.

On June 16, 1992, the EPA OSC again met with the CT DEP to determine the priority of actions at the Site, while working within the authorized budget. The CT DEP requested that Site cleanup actions be postponed until the CT DEP could further investigate the environmental impact caused by the Site. Removal options is also complicated by the the significant increase in volume from 800 cubic yard to 3200 cubic yards in volume based on new information generated as a result of the Gilbert & Bennett soil boring study.

On June 16, 1992, the EPA OSC received a "draft work plan" from the ERCS contractor.

On June 17, 1992, the OSC received a copy of the "Work Scope" from G&B. It included additional extended soil boring to determine full depth and extent of the fill materials at the Site.

On June 18, 1992, the OSC contacted the property owner and obtained verbal site access to allow G&B subcontractors to perform additional soil boring.

On June 23, 1992, the CTDEP collected several water samples from the stream that flows into the Saugatuck River. These samples were analyzed to determine the environmental impact caused by the site.

From June 23 through June 25, 1992, Brautigam land surveyors and their subcontractors, North East Soils Inc., were present on Site to create the topographic maps and delineate the wetlands.

During this same frame, G&B hired a drilling contractor, General Boring, who collected core samples to further define the extent of the contamination. The drilling team noted that the sludge was deposited at levels as great as 8 feet below the surface. This augmentation in depth greatly increases the total volume of contaminated soil to be excavated.

On June 26, 1992, GES delivered the "Work Proposal and Cost Estimate" for the Harco Site.

On July 27, 1992, the CTDEP collected a second round of water samples.

On July 27, 1992, the OSC received from the G&B representatives a written response to the Notice of Potential liability letter sent on May 28, 1992. The letter indicated a willingness to perform or finance response activities at the Site. However, based on the inherent complexities of the Site and until an environmentally sound and cost-effective solution is identified and agreed to by the CTDEP, G&B is willing to immediately construct a security fence to restrict Site access.

April 21, 1993, the OSC prepared "Draft Scope of Work"(SOW) for installation of a temporary measure at site which will involve a fence.

April 22, 1993, the OSC sent a "Draft SOW" to the PRPs and the CT DEP for comments. A meeting was scheduled for May 6, 1993 to discuss the SOW.

April 22, 1993, the OSC was notified by the property owner that a fence is not acceptable.

April 27, 1993, the OSC received a call from the property owners stating that a fence would not be acceptable and preferred the installation of a cap. Further discussion on these issues were to take place at the next meeting between the PRPs.

On April 29, 1993, the OSC sent a letter to the CT DEP. The letter stated EPA's current position as follows: Based on the results from the surveys and other Site information, several options exist for Site remediation. However, because of the Site location, its limited access to the public, its current use and regional priorities and budget constraints, no final remediation is planned at this time. In order to avoid the chance of lead inhalation and ingestion, the EPA plans to erect a chain-link fence around the Site. The PRPs have shown a willingness to perform this task. EPA is planning to issue an Administrative Order to the PRPs for the fence installation.

On April 30, 1993, the OSC received a letter from G&B indicating that they were willing and prepared to install a fence immediately.

On May 6, 1993, the OSC and, the Enforcement coordinator (EC) met with the PRPs to discuss the upcoming Administrative Order that was to be issued. EPA's intent is to avoid exposure of lead by inhalation and ingestion. This can be accomplished by erecting a chain link fence around the Site. The land owner indicated that he preferred the installation of a cap, and was not willing to fund and provide engineering support and designs for its implementation. G&B representatives were willing and prepared to install a fence immediately. G&B concerns for a cap was the cost to be incurred and the concept of not being able to obtain acceptance from the CTDEP authorities. Until the cap issue is resolved between the PRPs and the CTDEP, the fence was prioritized for Site control.

On May 26, 1993, the OSC distributed the Administrative Record File Record to the Wilton Library for public review and comments.

May 27, 1993, the OSC received a verbal request from the property owners requesting that a cap be placed on the exposed areas of contamination rather than the installation of a fence. The conditions requested that the EPA approve the cap. At this point, no engineering design had been submitted to the EPA or the CTDEP.

May 27, 1993, the OSC in a phone conversation with Doug Zimmerman, CTDEP, reach a unilateral agreement that a proposal for a cap by the PRPs was unacceptable without supportive documentation in form of a work plan and schedule.

On June 15, 1993, the OSC met on Site with G&B prime contractor to discuss/review the work plans specifications for the fence installation.

On June 16, 1993, the OSC met with the local fire chief and the town manager for a briefing on the current Site status.

On July 16, 1993, G&B commenced the installation of the fence.

On September 10, 1993, the EPA received a "Completion of Work Report" for the fence installation at the Harco site, from G&B prime contractor Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.

On November 26, 1993, the OSC sent a letter to the property owners and to G&B approving the completion of work report submitted by Malcom Pirnie regarding the fence installation to restrict Site access. The EPA determined that the Respondents have completed all of the tasks that would have been required by the Administrative Order, had it been necessary to issue it.

III. Future Actions:

OSC to finalize OSC Report.

IV. Financial:

Cost Summary Report (as of 02/02/94)

Regional Payroll Cost.....	\$ 33,286.89
Headquarters Payroll Cost.....	821.73
EPA Indirect Cost.....	80,178.00
Regional Travel Cost.....	438.80
Emergency Removal Cleanup Services(ERCS) Cost	
Guardian Environmental Services, Inc.....	17,206.28
Emergency Response Unit (ERU) Contract Cost	
Roy F. Weston, Inc. (68-03-3482)	9,164.21
Environmental Services Assistance Teams (ESAT)	
Contract Costs	
Lockheed Engineering Company (68-D1-0158).	1,324.55
Technical Assistance Team (TAT) Contract Cost	
Roy F. Weston, Inc. (68-W0-0036).....	33,679.15
TOTAL SITE COSTS::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	\$ 176,099.61

CASE CLOSED.